

Dear Fans,

Regretfully we announce the loss of Lois Saunders, one of our Fan Club Secretaries. Lois drowned in the Yosemite river on June 23rd. We miss her very much and I'm sure that those of you who corresponded with her will miss her cheerful letters. She was a great lady.

A limited number of brass belt buckles, so very "in" these days, are in the making for Carpenter fans. They will be $3\frac{1}{4}$ " by $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and will sport the beautiful Carpenter logo. Rather than flat, they will be convex to fit the contour of the body. Selling price is \$7.00 and since the order is limited, they will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

SPECIAL NOTE TO JAPANESE FANS: Karen and Richard thank you for the numerous gifts, cards and letters they received from you while on tour in Japan. Dolls, fans, kimonos, games, flowers, stuffed animals, parasols, puppets, candy, etc., etc. were placed in their hands as they toured Japan. Tickets for the Japanese concerts sold out in less than an hour's time. While there, K & R broke two music industry records: (1) their tour sold out for 18 consecutive concerts as they played for 85,000 fans, (2) THE SINGLES album in England toppled BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS from the No. 1 spot where it had been for 18 consecutive weeks. More gold records also arrived from Japan for record breaking Japanese sales of both singles and albums.

The Japanese tour was truly great. They left L.A. on Monday at 10:30 A.M. and because of the time difference, the 14 hour flight landed them in Tokyo at 5:50 P.M. Tuesday. There were 25 photographers and over 5000 fans at the Tokyo airport to greet them. This was the first true mob scene they had ever experienced, where they had to "fight" their way to the waiting limos which finally whisked them to the Tokyo Hilton. A luncheon the first day was given by King Records in K & R's honor at the Chin San So. There they were the recipients of beautiful Japanese kimonos made out of real silk and valued at \$5000.00 each. The lovely Japanese gardens surrounding the restaurant was the setting for picture taking and interviews which followed the luncheon. The second day press conference which was preceded by a photo session was another elaborate affair. Refreshments were served and K & R were amazed and delighted to see their Carpenter logo carved out of ice. There, they received five gold records from the Japanese: 4 singles - TOP OF THE WORLD, YESTERDAY ONCE MORE, I WON'T LAST A DAY WITHOUT YOU & JAMBALAYA; and 1 album - CARPENTERS GOLDEN PRIZE, VOL II. They also won the Japanese Grand Prix Award. This is a broadcasters award where winners are selected by listeners who write in to vote for their favorite group. K & R won the single of the year (Yesterday Once More), album of the year (Now & Then), and favorite group of the year. The third day they managed to do a little shopping before doing a sound check at the concert hall where they performed before 12,000 people that evening. That concert was also taped for TV. A Japanese bullet train zipped them to Shizuoko where they had rooms waiting at the Grand Hotel. Richard described the rooms there as Barbie Doll rooms. They were the tiniest rooms they had ever seen, not only in length and depth but also in height. They were built for people 4 feet tall, he said. Bathtubs, too, were tiny. The doll house rooms were used for dressing purposes only. After the concert, once again they boarded the bullet and raced toward Kyoto where some of the group became ill. Danny's staph infection reoccurred and caused an illness similar to pneumonia; Richard had to make a hurried trip to the eye doctor to have a bothersome lash removed from his eye, and Karen suffered from cramps that started after her first breakfast in Japan. But in spite of all the illness, they managed to put on a terrific show in the beautiful Kyoto concert hall. At the Osaka airport they were joined by Pete Henderson who remained with them for the balance of the tour. At the Grand Hotel there, Richard was delighted to see large size bathtubs once again. In Fukuoka, Karen was taken to a M.D. who informed her that the cramps she was having was simply a nervous stomach. But she discovered later they were caused by the eggs she was having for breakfast each morning. When she abstained from eating the hen fruit, she suffered no cramps. All six shows performed in Osaka were recorded on a 16 track machine by King Records Co. for release of a double record "live" Japanese tour album. Copies of the tapes are to be sent to Richard who will listen to all and pick the best of each show for a possible U.S. release. The shows took up K & R's time, but mom and dad who travelled with them, spent some time shopping and browsing in the beautiful shopping arcades and they also visited the Osaka Castle. They all agreed that the smog here was worse than any they had ever experienced in Los Angeles. Once more they boarded the bullet train for Nagoya where Roger and Tony (Bone) Peluso took their turns being ill.. Shopping in the huge hotel mall, they discovered some of the same "snooty" shops that they patronize in Beverly Hills and were amazed to find that prices here were double the B.H. prices. R. wondered how they stay in business as everyone was looking and no one was buying ---- except Richard who purchased a tie to match his yellow suit. They rode thru a

downpour of rain enroute to Yokohama and noted the heavy industrial area and large factories all along their route. They stayed at the New Grand Hotel until show time and later returned to Tokyo to enjoy a lovely dinner at the Shabu Shabu restaurant. It happens in Japan, too.... Someone did a rip off on Robert Walburn, equipment maintenance man and walked off with his cameras, walkie-talkie, and attache case. Their last evening in Tokyo was spent at the Cocacabana where the entire group was treated to a very tasty meal while they discussed the new sound system that is being built for them which will make their concerts better than ever. Other than a little rain and illness, the tour was a truly great one. K & R were especially pleased with the little Japanese children that sang "Sing" on stage with them. They said every group was truly fantastic and they both agreed that each group was better than their single SING !! Another order of T Shirts is on the way in colors we haven't offered before. As cotton becomes scarce, T-Shirts are difficult to obtain so this may be our last order. See below for new colors now available to our fans. And, yes - The price remains the same, at least for the time being. Those of you residing in the L.A. area will be delighted to learn that Carpenters have been signed up to do a concert at the Hollywood Bowl. The date is September 6 (tentatively). Watch your local newspaper and the L.A. Times for ads. The move to the new house has been made and K & R are enjoying their new surroundings. They remained in the L.A. area but are somewhat closer to the recording studio now. At the present time K & R are busy working on a new album. No release date is available right now. That's about it for now so I'll try to answer some of your questions.

Q. Has either K or R had their tonsils removed ?

A. No.

Q. Has either had any broken bones ?

A. Karen, no. Richard, Yes. See Newsletter # 23

Q. Has Karen written any songs ?

A. No. Richard is the songwriter of this team.

Q. Has either had any cavities ?

A. Karen, 3 or 4. Richard, none.

Q. Did Richard ever teach piano ?

A. Yes. During his college years. He taught 2 youngsters as a favor to two friends and the number soon mushroomed to 22.

Q. Was Richard ever a church organist ?

A. Yes. He played for the Methodist Church in Downey while he was still in school.

Q. Are they going to make that Swedish movie this year ?

A. No. Time does not permit. For the remainder of '74 they are scheduled for concerts and record cutting.

Q. Can either of them speak any foreign languages ?

A. Not enough to carry on a conversation. Karen learned how to sing SING in Japanese so she could sing it on stage with Japanese children.

Q. What is their favorite song of the songs Richard has written ?

A. Goodbye To Love

Q. Did "I Won't Last A Day Without You" sell a million ?

A. No

Q. Is their upcoming album going to be new material ?

A. None of the material will have been on Carpenter records before.

Q. Will you be doing anymore TV specials ?

A. Not anymore this year.

Q. Is Richard going to marry Randy Bash ?

A. No. Richard is also dating other girls.

Q. Do K & R like to travel ?

A. Yes

Q. Did Karen ever take dancing lessons ?

A. Yes, when she was 4 years old. She took tap, ballet and acrobatic dancing

Q. Who is their favorite actor and actress ?

A. They have no one favorite. There are many they admire.

That's about it for this time. Keep your questions flowing in and we will try to get around to them as soon as we can. Will try to bring you some of the happenings at Lake Tahoe next letter. They will be playing the Sahara hotel there August 12 thru the 27th.

NEW T-SHIRTS: ADULTS: Powder blue w/white and white w/red - small, medium and large. Lemon w/red and white w/blue - medium and small only. CHILDREN'S: Lemon w/red, gold w/red, white w/red, and white w/blue in large and medium sizes. Navy blue, red and yellow which we have been carrying are still available while we have them in stock but we will not be able to reorder these colors.